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## Geneva Celebrates Calvin Jubilee

(Geneva) - More than five thousand Geneva citizens gathered in late spring rain under the imposing statues of Calvin, Farel, Boza and Knox at the Reformation Monument on the morning of Sunday, May 31. They were joined by Reformed representatives from twenty countries to celebrate the fourth centenary of John Calvin's educational and theological work.

A half hour service of worship marked the opening of three days of celebrations coinciding with the 450th anniversary of the birth of the great Reformer, who lived and worked in Geneva for more than 25 years.

The Geneva commemoration is being repeated in many different forms simultaneously in countries all over the world. Member churches of the World Presbyterian Alliance include more than 45,000,000 Christians - the fourth largest international "confessional" family.

After the service, led by Pastor A. Werner, moderator of Geneva's "Pastors' Company", and addressed by representatives of the city of Geneva and the French Reformed Church, the worshippers marched in procession to the city's exhibition building, decorated for the occasion with brilliant red and gold banners bearing the arms of the Canton of Geneva. The Protestants of the city joined in a picnic

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lunch and during the afternoon were able to watch the first public Swiss showings of "Soli deo Gloria", a film on the Geneva Reformation and its world outreach, made by well-known French director Roger Leenhardt.

In the evening another great crowd assembled at the Reformation Monument for the inaugural performance of the first Festival of Sound and Light ever to be held in Switzerland. The spectacle, which is scheduled to be repeated every fine night during the summer, casts the immense figures of the reformers into relief by a varied play of lights, accompanied by recorded voices and music telling the story of the Reformation. The text by Henri Laudenbach is accompanied by original music of the Geneva composer Roger Vuataz. French film star Pierre Fresnay speaks the part of Calvin.

The Gothic Calvin auditorium, where the reformer preached and taught, was re-dedicated by the World Presbyterian Alliance on the morning of June 1. The building, next to the Cathedral of St. Pierre, has been restored as the result of a world-wide appeal for \$160,000. A message from President Eisenhower, who is a Presbyterian, was read by the Rev. Harrison Ray Anderson of Chicago, president of the world committee for the restoration of the building. A window in stained glass, designed by Eric de Saussure, a Swiss artist and member of the Reformed men's resident community of Taizé in France, will be presented to the auditorium by the University of Geneva.

Other events in Geneva included a public meeting addressed by Dr. Marcel Pradervand, general secretary of the World Presbyterian Alliance and a visit of church representatives to the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches at Bossey, near Geneva. Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC general secretary, welcoming the delegates at Bossey, reminded them that "the Reformed churches have a tremendous ecumenical responsibility because of their great heritage". He said he "could only wish at this moment that the Reformed churches were absolutely ready to follow Calvin and open themselves to discussions with other churches - always holding to their centre, which is Christ."

Dr. Visser 't Hooft said he was "not surprised" that the Church of Scotland had rejected closer unity with the Anglican churches (see EPS page ), because the move was "not sufficiently well planned on the local parish level".

He added that theologians are often in advance of what is accepted in the parishes and that, in this case, the theologians who made the proposals "spoke a language not understood" by the laity. He noted that "this is a warning to all of us".

#### Paris Celebrations Close with Synod Statements

The 400th anniversary synod of the French Reformed Church followed up its ceremonial opening with statements on aid for victims of the Algerian war and on Communism.

The synod strongly endorsed a joint appeal issued by Pastor Marc Boegner and Cardinal Feltin of Paris. (See EPS page ) The appeal asked for more humane treatment of Algerians moved into "re-grouping settlements" by the French government as a means of combating terrorism. Parishes in France were asked by the synod to have the appeal read from pulpits.

Requesting the French Government to "launch a vast movement of assistance", the delegates of the churches also called on "youth and church members to consider





seriously whether they should undertake to serve in Algeria as missionaries, teachers, doctors and social workers".

A statement on Communism issued by the synod after discussions led by Professor Pierre Burgelin of Paris, rejected "all doctrines like Marxism, which proclaim that for man, man is the supreme being, and are based on human power alone as the means of building a society and giving direction to history". At the same time the synod warned against church slackness, complacency and acceptance of vested interests. "The Church has tolerated social injustice and encouraged resignation when it was time to act", the statement went on.

Messages were sent to the jubilee synod by the Archbishop of Canterbury and by Princess Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. EPS, Geneva

#### Anglican and DRC Leaders Hold Cordial Talks

(Capetown) - Private conversations between leaders of the Dutch Reformed Churches in South Africa and leaders of the Anglican Church have led to a statement by Anglican Archbishop Joost de Blank of Capetown hoping for "a new era of mutual consultation and respect". The archbishop said he prayed the talks would "lead, through clearer understanding, to corporate action in matters of common concern".

The archbishop's statement came at about the same time as a decision of the Dutch Reformed churches to enter into a multi-racial council of churches, with representation from Afrikaans, English and indigenous African church bodies in southern Africa.

Aims for the council will be consultation, attempts to remove misunderstanding, a quest for a Christian front against non-Christian forces and search for an "honest Christian answer" to the problems of Africa's multi-racial societies.

It has also been announced that from now on the various synods of the Dutch Reformed Church (Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk) in southern and central Africa will form a single church from Kenya to the Cape of Good Hope.

Commenting, the Capetown correspondent of the English daily "Manchester Guardian" said that "all these developments are welcomed by responsible opinion in South Africa, where for some time past there has been a feeling that the only hope of arresting the present rapid deterioration of race relations lies through action by the churches". EPS, Geneva

#### Catholic-Protestant Study Plans Dropped

(Madrid) - Plans for a three-day Roman Catholic-Protestant study conference to have been held in Spain last week were dropped at the order of Vatican authorities. The programme included discussion of Catholic-Protestant relations.

Announcement that the scheduled meeting would not take place came in the form of a statement issued by the Spanish Ministry of Information and based on a ruling made by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office in Rome.

Observers here are reported to have indicated that the ban will cause "considerable surprise" in "more forward looking" Spanish Catholic circles which have been impressed by "the conciliatory and tolerant" attitude of Pope John XXIII.





Prior to the announcement, "Signo", Catholic Action periodical, had expressed evident approval at the plans and said "we hope much from this meeting".

The announcement said the decision had been communicated to Dom Aurelio Escarre, Abbot of the celebrated Benedictine monastery in Catalonia where the conference was to have been held. Abbot Escarre is generally recognized as one of the strongest supporters of greater autonomy for Catalonia. He recently gained national prominence for his stand against the Civil Governor of the province in support of the Catholic Boy Scout movement, insisting on its independence from the corresponding Falange-run movement.

Numerous foreign clergy and laymen were to attend the meeting including Dr. Karl Barth, internationally famous Swiss theologian. EPS, Geneva

#### Church of Scotland Rejects Bishops

(Edinburgh) - The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, by a vote of 300 to 266, last week rejected proposals for acceptance of "bishops in presbytery". The suggestion had been made in a joint report issued by a commission of Anglican and Presbyterian church representatives in England and Scotland in May, 1957.

The assembly said that "the proposals in the joint report are unacceptable in that they imply a denial of the catholicity of the Church of Scotland and of the validity and regularity of its ministry within the Church Catholic".

Dr. A.C. Craig, convenor of the Assembly's Inter-church Relations Committee, which had recommended keeping the door open for future conversations with the Anglican Church by saying the proposals were "unacceptable in their present form", resigned after the vote. "The Church of Scotland has today made a switch in policy", he told the Assembly, "and when such a switch is made the church needs a new man to take over."

Dr. G.M. Dryburgh of Glasgow, who spoke against acceptance of the report said: "We must make it perfectly sure that these proposals never appear again in this or any other form".

A presbyter of the Church of South India, the Rev. C. Selvamani said that in that church, which includes former presbyterians, the bishops were "not administrators, not dictators, just chief pastors".


After animated debate an overwhelming majority in the Assembly endorsed the report of its Central Africa Committee, which strongly criticized British Government policy in Central Africa and called for much greater participation of Africans in governing the Central African Federation. (See EPS Nos. 14 & 16)

Dr. George MacLeod, convenor of the committee, defended the report on the ground that "for the time being someone must speak for the Africans batted down below the hatches as detainees".

Brigadier Bernard Ferguson, who spoke against the report, said that it was one-sided and gave only the African point of view as seen by the missionaries.

Following the debate, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland received a telegram from Mr. Kanyama Chiume, publicity secretary of the Nyasaland African





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Congress and a member of the Nyasaland Legislative Council. The message said "The Assembly's approval of your committee's report on Nyasaland and Central Africa is a living symbol of the church's determination to preserve the tradition, respect and dignity of Africans as fellow human beings before God, Father of all mankind, irrespective of colour, as championed by Dr. Laws and fellow missionaries dead and living."

In other action the assembly sent to its presbyteries for review a proposal to admit women to the ordained ministry. EPS, Geneva

#### French Protestants and Roman Catholics Issue United Muslim Aid Appeal

(Paris) - For the first time in their history French Roman Catholic and Protestant church leaders have issued a joint statement.

The statement is in the form of an appeal for funds and workers to continue the work of their respective service organizations as "a symbol of evangelical peace" among the estimated 1,000,000 North African Muslims who have been moved out of their homes and into "re-grouping centres" as a result of the Algerian war.

The statement declares that "Algeria poses a number of problems... to which the Christian conscience cannot remain indifferent" and notes that the Muslims are dependent upon aid given by the churches not only for any improvement in living conditions but "for their daily bread".

It appeals for funds and workers, particularly doctors and social workers, without whose services, it says, there will be "serious consequences for the entire Arab population". A release issued in connection with the statement points to "an alarming increase in infant mortality and malnutrition" among Muslims in the centres.

The statement was signed by Dr. Marc Boegner, president of the French Protestant Federation and a former president of the World Council of Churches, and Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris. Service organizations of the two churches are Secours Catholique and CIMADE.

In a separate statement, CIMADE says that the joint statement is "wholly within (its) tradition not only of serving people in distress, but also in giving witness to the unity of the Church of Christ in the world". EPS, Geneva

#### Churches Aid in Crete Earthquake

(Athens) - Emergency food and clothing supplies have been distributed to victims of earthquakes in Crete by Church World Service and the Division of Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches. The series of three quakes which swept through the central part of the island on May 15 left an estimated 6,500 persons homeless in ninety villages and caused widespread damage to churches and other buildings.

On-the-spot surveys of the damage were made by the Metropolitan of Crete, Walter S. Kilpatrick, CWS representative in Athens, and his associate, M.E. Michaelides. Supplies distributed included 5,300 pounds of rice, 7,000 pounds of sugar plus more than 50 bales of clothing and shoes. In a report to the agencies Mr. Kilpatrick noted that church contributions had been "particularly timely, first because no other clothing supplies were available and second because we were able to provide food items of high nutritive value to people who have been living in emergency circumstances for some time." EPS, Geneva







### USA Presbyterians Issue Unity Appeal

(Indianapolis) - The United Presbyterian Church in the USA has issued an appeal to nine denominations in the United States and Canada to join it in seeking organic unity.

The proposal, in the form of a letter to the nine member bodies of the North American Area of the World Presbyterian Alliance, was approved by nearly 1,000 delegates to the General Assembly of the United Church meeting in annual session here.

The United Presbyterian Church, which with some 3,000,000 members is the largest body of the ten-member Alliance area, was formed one year ago by the merger of the Presbyterian Church in the USA and the United Presbyterian Church of North America. The combined membership of the other nine members of the Alliance is nearly 3,500,000.

The letter hails last year's merger as a great success, noting that "never before had the bringing together of two proud traditions in the stream of church history been accomplished with a more manifest unity of spirit".

It expressed the hope that with the other nine bodies "we may present our witness to the reconciling love of God in Christ to the world with one voice in one Church".

A first response to the appeal was reported from Dr. James E. Wagner, president of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, who said the unity proposal was "a cause for rejoicing", but warned that his denomination would have to consider the invitation "in the light of its deep involvement" with the United Church of Christ. (The E & R Church in 1957 merged with the Congregational Christian General Council to form the United Church of Christ.)

In addition to the E. & R Church, the other bodies receiving the letter were the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the USA, the Hungarian Reformed Church in America, the Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern), the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada.

In other action the General Assembly expressed "Christian concern" that Communist China might soon be recognized by the US government and admitted to membership in the United Nations.

At the same time the Assembly called for "study and discussion" in order to develop "mutual understanding with this important section of the world".

The resolution reads: "We would also express our Christian concern that the day may soon come when our government, in concert with other free nations, may enter with honour into normal relations with the government of the Chinese people."

Dr. John Mackay, out-going president of Princeton Theological Seminary, in a later speech praised the resolution and said that by failing to recognize Red China the United States is turning its back on untold thousands of Christians in Red China, while at the same time by its recognition of Spain helping "to perpetuate the worst tyranny in years".

He said Red China is one of the last great frontiers "not illuminated by the light of the Gospel", and asked, "How can we speak to China unless we recognize her? How can the Chinese people learn?" "They may talk rough to us and we may talk rough to them," he continued, "but at least we will be looking eye-to-eye."

EPS, Geneva





US Lutheran Merger Group Approves "Confession of Faith".

(Chicago) - Representatives of four US Lutheran bodies planning merger have given provisional approval to a doctrinal article described as a "Confession of Faith" for the proposed new 3,000,000 member church.

The statement, which underscores "the unity and wholeness" of the Church, is incorporated in the seventh draft of the constitution to be submitted for ratification to conventions of the uniting churches, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, Augustana Lutheran Church, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod) and the United Lutheran Church in America.

In another session the representatives heard a report that legal obstacles have eliminated four out of six of the proposed names for the new church, leaving only two proposals for consideration. These are the Lutheran Church-United Synods and United Lutheran Church in America.

The constitution and by-laws for the new body, which will be the largest Lutheran church in the US, are expected to be ready to be submitted to the uniting churches for ratification in 1960. If these documents are approved by then, the new church's constituting convention is planned for 1961 and the denomination is expected to begin functioning late in 1962 or early in 1963 (see also EPS, No. 39, 1958).

The text of the new Confession of Faith is on page 11.

EPS, Geneva

Refugee Aid Talks Urge Stepped-Up US Programmes

(Washington, D.C.) - More than 160 persons active in refugee work ended a two-day Washington meeting with a strong appeal to the US government and people to do more to aid refugees around the world during World Refugee Year.

The meeting was called by President Eisenhower to make recommendations on US participation in the UN-sponsored programme which begins in the USA on July 1.

A call for additional government assistance was interpreted by observers as reflecting the opinion of most conference participants that present Administration plans for the Year are inadequate.

The United States government plans a five-point programme during the Year including an increase of \$4,000,000 in aid to established refugee programmes (now costing about \$40,000,000 annually) and an increase of \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for food distribution from the surplus agricultural commodity programme. The US Congress is also considering legislation which would make available to eligible refugees unused immigration quota openings up to a maximum of 10,000 annually.

Dean Francis B. Sayre, Jr., of Washington Cathedral (Protestant Episcopal) is chairman of the US Committee on Refugees, which has been set up to coordinate work of American voluntary agencies in the World Refugee Year. EPS, Geneva





Annual Lutheran-Orthodox Talks held in Finland

(Helsinki) - A Lutheran-Orthodox theological conference took place at the Finnish Church Training Institute in Järvenpää from May 23 - 28. It was organized jointly by the Finnish Ecumenical Council and the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, following up a series of Lutheran-Orthodox encounters in Finland during the past five years.

For the first time the meeting was attended by Orthodox theologians from Russia: Professor N. Uspensky from Leningrad and lecturer V. Talysin from Moscow Theological Academies, as well as by the Lutheran Archbishop J. Kiivit from Estonia.

The theme of the conference was "Catholicity (Sobornost) and the Unity of the Church". Speakers were Professor A. Nikolainen, Dean of Helsinki Theological Faculty; Professor Uspensky; Dr. Talysin; Professor H.H. Wolf and Dr. N. Nissiotis, of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, Switzerland; and Mr. John Lawrence, editor of 'Frontier', London.

A statement issued after the meeting said that "the discussions were marked by a frank and brotherly spirit and proved to be a fruitful beginning for further contact and study".

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

Korean Methodists have established 250 new congregations since 1953 and are seeking to organize another 250 within the next four years, according to church officials. Latest statistics show 47,000 members and a constituency of 200,000 in the Korean Methodist Church.

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The Southern Baptist Convention (US) has called on its executive committee to consider a meeting with Negro Baptist leaders to discuss mutual problems (see EPS No. 21). The call was made by decisive voice vote by some 11,800 messengers (delegates) meeting in annual session in Louisville, Kentucky. The two Negro groups with which discussions are asked are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., with more than 4,600,000 members and the National Baptist Convention of America with 2,700,000.

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According to the latest survey of the Missionary Research Library, New York, there are at present 38,606 Protestant missionaries at work in all countries. The figure is three times the number in 1903 and nearly 50 per cent more than the figure for 1936. Of these, 25,058 come from North America, (USA and Canada) and the remaining 13,548 from the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the "younger churches".

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Main sessions of the Ecumenical Council called by Pope John XXIII will be televised, according to "L'Osservatore Della Domenica" the Vatican's weekly newspaper. It said that together with radio broadcasts and newsreels, the telecasts will provide Roman Catholics with a close-up view of the council's work.

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News dispatches from New Delhi indicate that the government plans continued restrictions on the entry of missionaries into India. Ordinarily new missionaries are not admitted into border and tribal areas and new institutions may not be opened without the express consent of the government. "Old" missionaries are permitted to return, but the government is urging that all posts should be assigned to qualified Indians as rapidly as possible. A reported 4,884 foreign missionaries were working in India in January 1958 as compared with 5,691 in January 1956.

\* \*

Miss Umeko Kagawa of Tokyo, Japan, has been appointed secretary of World Youth Projects, a joint enterprise of the World Council of Churches and the World Council of Christian Education. Miss Kagawa will direct programmes in 24 countries involving some 40 projects, including summer service work, youth centres, leadership training courses and publications. Miss Kagawa, who has been co-director of the Student Fellowship of Japan for the past two years, received her Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn. She will assume her new duties in New York on July 1. Miss Kagawa is a daughter of the well-known Christian leader Toyohiko Kagawa.

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Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, has been decorated by the French government as officer of the Legion of Honour. The award was bestowed by Pastor Marc Boegner during the meetings of the 400th jubilee synod of the French Reformed Church in Paris last week. Professor Jaques Courvoisier, rector of the University of Geneva, has received the same honour.

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Plans for the establishment of a World Christian Council for Abstinence have been made by representatives of churches in Germany, England, Scandinavia, Holland and Switzerland meeting at Hamburg, Germany. A preliminary announcement said the Council will study the problems of alcoholism and seek "to enlighten the public" about them, hold regional conferences and publish literature. It said the Council will also seek contacts with international Christian organizations and with national and international abstinence groups, with a view to close co-operation and possible membership.

\* \*

Some 2,000 Protestant and Roman Catholic church representatives and musicians attended the first German Conference on Church Music held in Berlin recently. They heard addresses on the functions of the church-musician, choral motets and concerts, the Gregorian chant as a contemporary art form, new developments in electronic music and modern jazz.

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The documentary film "Bridges of Friendship", produced by the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church has been shown in Berlin. The film depicts the visit to Russia in January of delegates of the Evangelical Church in Germany and also shows scenes of church life in the Soviet Union.

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A special four-hour service commemorating its 250th anniversary was held on May 24 at the Lutheran Church of Jesus at Teschen, Poland. More than 10,000 persons from Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Sweden and Czechoslovakia attended the service, which was conducted by Bishop Wantula of the Lutheran Church of Poland.

EPS, Geneva





DocumentsA Message from the First Assembly of the East Asia Christian Conference (May 14-24, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya) Addressed to the Member Churches and Councils

By God's Grace we have been able to meet together as your representatives in the first assembly of the East Asia Christian Conference representing 48 churches and councils in 14 nations, we have spent ten days together planning and praying for our future work together. God, who brought us together here, has given us new confidence and joy in our common witness, and we would like to share these gifts with you.

There is much evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in our churches. In areas of extreme difficulty and danger the Church is growing. New ways of evangelism are being pioneered. Most of the churches in Asia are now sending out missionaries to other lands as well as receiving them, and helping one another with many kinds of service, as well as receiving manifold help from churches in other parts of the world. The Gospel is being carried out not only by organized missions, but also by the spontaneous witness of Christians going to other places as workers or traders, or even as refugees. We are beginning to see a new pattern of missionary work, in which there is no one-way traffic of giving and receiving, but all - even the very newest congregation - share in the task of witness according to the gifts which the Holy Spirit gives. Every church has gifts which others need, and every one needs what others can give. The Asian churches are learning to live in this pattern of common sharing, and we believe that our meeting here will strengthen these bonds and open up new ways of mutual helpfulness.

We rejoice that in most parts of East Asia there is religious freedom. We recognize, however, that there are large areas in which this freedom is severely curtailed. We affirm the right of every adult person to profess and propagate his faith and his right to change his religious affiliation, as where this is denied all other freedoms are insecure.

Our countries and peoples have changed beyond recognition in the past 25 years. The achievement of national freedom, the drive towards a better standard of living for all, and the rebirth of the ancient religions, combine to create a new and revolutionary situation for the ordinary man. Old patterns of thought and life have been broken. Searching new questions are forced upon every man. What is man? For what has he been brought into this world? What can he rightly hope for, and how can he attain it? The only sufficient answer to these questions is in our Lord Jesus Christ, Himself the way, the truth and the life. But we, His ambassadors, cannot give that answer unless we stand where men stand, face their questions with them, and enter into real conversation with them.

This means that Christian people must go into every part of the life of our peoples, into politics, into social and national service, into the world of art and culture, to work in real partnership with those who are not Christians, and to be witnesses for Christ in all these realms. It means that every Christian must recognize that his primary service to God is the daily work he does in the secular world. It means that we must give our minds to the task of understanding what God is doing in this world, so that Christians engaged in these secular tasks may have guidance and help in the decisions they have to make, and so that the churches may be ready, when necessary, to speak a prophetic word of warning or encouragement to those in authority and to the peoples.







It means also that each congregation must know that it is put into the world by the Lord as His representative, and that it must therefore be chiefly concerned not with itself, but with the world, concerned to send its members out as witnesses, and to invite all men into the family of God. Its minister should be one who is seeking to train every member for this ministry in the world. Its worship should be such that those around are drawn through it to the worship of the true God as their Father. Its forms of organization should be such that every member can be, and know himself to be, an active member in the Body of Christ.

We have met during the season of Pentecost. We have been constantly reminded that the same Holy Spirit whose mighty works are recorded in the New Testament, is also with us today in undiminished power. Our churches are in many cases small and weak, too dependent on the support of older churches, too much imprisoned in traditional forms. But the Holy Spirit is mighty, able to open new paths and to create new things, able to call the things that are not as though they were. Our meeting together here has given us a new assurance of His sufficiency. We, the churches of Asia, have been called to be witnesses together for Christ; He, the Holy Spirit Himself, is the supreme witness, and His witness is greater than ours. Let us then accept anew for ourselves Christ's promise: Ye shall be my witnesses ... unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

EPS, Geneva

Doctrinal Article tentatively accepted by  
the Commission on Lutheran Unity of four  
Lutheran Churches in the USA (See page 7)

Section 1. This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord of the Church. The Holy Spirit creates and sustains the Church through the Gospel and thereby unites believers with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of faith.

Section 2. This church holds that the Gospel is the revelation of God's sovereign will and saving grace in Jesus Christ. In Him, the Word Incarnate, God imparts Himself to men.

Section 3. This church acknowledges the Holy Scriptures as the norm for the faith and life of the Church. The Holy Scriptures are the divinely inspired record of God's redemptive act in Christ, for which the Old Testament prepared the way and which the New Testament proclaims. In the continuation of this proclamation in the Church, God still speaks through the Holy Scriptures and realizes His redemptive purpose generation after generation.

Section 4. This church accepts the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian creeds as true declarations of the faith of the Church.

Section 5. This church accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Gospel, and acknowledges as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of these symbols.

Section 6. This church accepts the other symbolical books of the evangelical Lutheran church, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalkald Articles, Luther's Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord as further valid interpretations of the confession of the Church.

Section 7. This church affirms the Gospel transmitted by the Holy Scriptures, to which the creeds and confessions bear witness, is the true treasure of the Church, the substance of its proclamation, and the basis of its unity and continuity. The Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship. As this occurs, the Church fulfils its divine mission and purpose.

EPS, Geneva



